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PROCIB-D-16
29 September 1959

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Instruction - Reproducible

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Foreign Publications Program

TO: The American Embassy, ATHENS

Reference is made to 4 FSM 943, and to CA-3251, October 7, 1958, amended by CA-1005, July 30, 1959, covering procurement and reporting requirements for foreign publications desired by the Department and other Washington agencies. (Publications procurement for the CERP program is entirely separate and is not related to or covered in this instruction.)

The Department has for some time been considering providing the field with evaluations of foreign publication procurement activities on a post by post basis. The consensus of end-user agencies is that such appraisals will materially assist the posts in pinpointing certain needs for publications which have not been fully satisfied. On the other hand, it also permits Washington end-users to apprise the field of such publications which have been most useful.

The Department is aware of the general circumstances surrounding the difficulty in obtaining certain types of publications, and it is emphasized that such appraisals should not be construed as a critical evaluation of the State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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(part-time) Publications Officer's performance. On the contrary, it is intended merely to serve as a guide in the collection effort.

The first Foreign Publications Program Evaluation for Embassy Athens represents the coordinated comments of the Department of State (Regional and Intelligence Bureaus) and the three intelligence agencies (WF, SP, and AMS) which are the major end-users in this program.

The active foreign publications program developed by the post has met the requirements of the three mentioned intelligence agencies in a highly commendable manner reflecting credit on both the post and the Department. It is hoped that the activity can be maintained at its present high level. Selection and reporting of new publications has given wide coverage and has been useful to end-users. The post's handling of numerous subscriptions and specific requests for books, monographs and other items has generally been prompt and efficient. Some significant categories of publications which the various intelligence agencies would like to be supplied with, if they are available, or informed of their non-availability and a few suggestions for more fully meeting the Department's own needs are particularized in the enclosure of this instruction.

Enclosure:
Detailed Comment

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